

Trees on Maine Street

❧ The Project Canopy Bulletin ❧



January/February 2011

"February is merely as long as is needed to pass the time until March." - Dr. J. R. Stockton

Vibrant Cities & Urban Forests Report Released

Over the course of the past year, the Vibrant Cities & Urban Forests Task Force has been collaborating with New York Restoration Project (NYRP) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to craft the Vibrant Cities & Urban Forests: A National Call to Action report.

Bringing together the observations and recommendations of 25 experts across multiple disciplines, the Vibrant Cities Report presents a new framework for understanding the benefits of urban and community forestry. The ideas contained in the Report will be familiar to urban forestry practitioners; the innovation is in the approach. Convening a group of experts across multiple disciplines affected by the urban forest brings the message to a wider audience so that we are not once again preaching to the choir. Offering a cohesive and cogent statement for what urban and community forestry means to our cities, the Report establishes a vision, highlights emerging trends, and culminates with a series of recommendations that can be applied to urban areas across the U.S.

The vision of the Report is to "explore the implications of integrated natural and built urban environments and their possibilities for the future." Put another way, the aim of the Vibrant Cities Report is to show how urban and community forestry can be used to solve problems that face our cities, particularly in areas that are not immediately obvious. Most notably, the Report calls out how the urban forest, working as green infrastructure by complementing the built environment to address issues such as stormwater runoff, functions as part of a larger urban ecosystem. Taking another example, the benefits of trees also extend to the realm of public health through their ability to mitigate air pollution and extreme heat in cities.

By framing urban forestry as a solution to not only the environmental, but also the social, economic and public health issues that face cities, the Report empowers decision makers to unlock the myriad benefits offered by trees and green

infrastructure.

Building upon the vision, the Report continues with a run-down of several emerging trends, as well as how the potential benefits of the urban forest can offset the negative consequences of these trends. The challenges identified in the Emerging Trends focus on environmental, economic and social themes. The 12 Recommendations that follow are guided by the same underlying themes and represent the culmination of the Task Force's expertise. Distilled from over 100 initial proposals, the Recommendations cover Education and Public Awareness, Research and Evaluation, Public-Private Partnerships and other topics. Each Recommendation challenges the reader to take action to improve our cities.

The Recommendations are:

1. Create a national education and awareness campaign.
2. Foster urban forestry and natural resources stewardship and volunteerism.
3. Create sustainable jobs in urban forestry and green infrastructure.
4. Cultivate partnerships between public and private sectors.
5. Develop new public administration models for urban ecosystems.
6. Create comprehensive multi-jurisdictional Urban Regional Natural Resource Plans.
7. Integrate federal agencies' green infrastructure goals.
8. Establish energy efficiency programs that emphasize the use of trees.
9. Ensure equal access to urban forestry and green infrastructure resources.
10. Support urban ecosystem-focused, collaborative research.
11. Encourage open access to and use of social assessment tools
12. Establish national Vibrant Cities Standards.

For a USB device or hard copy version of the report, please email your name, mailing address and affiliation to: VibrantCitiesUrbanForests@gmail.com

Find us on the web at projectcanopy.maine.gov, on Facebook at facebook.com/ProjectCanopy or on twitter [@ProjectCanopy](https://twitter.com/ProjectCanopy)

PROJECT CANOPY

assists communities and nonprofit, grassroots organizations in building self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs with strong local support.

Editors: **Jan Ames Santerre**
Maine Forest Service
Phone in-state: 800-367-0223
Out-of-state: (207) 287-4987
Fax: (207) 287-8422
e-mail: jan.santerre@maine.gov

Kimberly Ballard
GrowSmart Maine
Phone: (207) 699-4330 x3
e-mail: kballard@growsmartmaine.org

News and Updates

Agency Uses New Way to Find Emerald Ash Borer

-Jordan Independent, December 15th

The MDA has teamed up with five metro area cities, the University of Minnesota and the U.S. Forest Service to better detect new infestations of emerald ash borer (EAB). Over the next three years researchers will conduct a study where they collect branches from 300 trees in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and Roseville. The area is centered on the first confirmed find of EAB in Minnesota in May 2009, northwest of Highway 280 and University Ave. in St. Paul. The method, known as branch sampling, will allow scientists to collect a total of 1,800 branches from the selected trees over the period of the study. The harvested branches will be examined for EAB and signs of stingless wasps that were released in the area to combat emerald ash borer. Branch sampling is a new approach when it comes to searching for EAB. Currently, scientists do visual checks of ash trees looking for signs of the insect and use purple traps to detect emerald ash borer in counties previously thought to be free of EAB. Branch sampling provides a more sensitive measure than the visual evaluation and the purple traps, but due to the more intensive labor it is only appropriate in some situations. To read more of this article link to; http://www.jordannews.com/view/full_story/16769098/article-Agency-uses-new-way-to-find-emerald-ash-borer

"There is nothing in the world more beautiful than the forest clothed to its very hollows in snow. It is the still ecstasy of nature, wherein every spray, every blade of grass, every spire of reed, every intricacy of twig, is clad with radiance."

- William Sharp

Grant Opportunities

EPA Urban Waters Small Grants—Deadline January 23, 2012. <http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding/>

USDA Expands People's Garden Initiative- Deadline January 31, 2012. <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2011/11/0484.xml>

People's Garden Mini Grants for Urban Fruit and Nut Trees http://actrees.org/site/resources/events/actrees_peoples_garden_grants.php#more

Five Star Restoration Grant Program—Deadline February 15, 2012. Supports community-based wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach and training activities. http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter_Programs_List&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPage_Display.cfm&TPLID=61&ContentID=13554

EPA Announces Solicitation of Applications for \$1 Million in Environmental Justice Grants- Deadline February 29, 2012. <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>

US Department of Education Launches Green Ribbon Schools Program <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2011/11/green-ribbon-schools-program-has-stateagencies-working-in-new-ways/>

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Maine Forest Service

DOUG DENICO
DIRECTOR

Forest Policy and Management Division
We help you make informed decisions about Maine forests



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"I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech-tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines."

- Henry David Thoreau, 1817 - 1862



Pinus rigida (Pitch Pine)



This pine occupies a variety of habitats from dry, acidic sandy uplands to swampy lowlands, and can survive in very poor conditions. The needles are in fascicles of three, about 6-13 cm in length, and are stout (over 1 mm broad) and often slightly twisted. The cones are 4-7

cm long and oval with prickles on the scales. The species is unusual in often having shoots (called epicormic sprouts) that can grow directly from the trunk. This is an adaptation to fire, enabling trees to re-sprout after fire has killed the crown; the thick bark protects the trunk from damage unless the fire is very severe. Burnt trees often form stunted, twisted trees with multiple trunks as a result of the resprouting. This characteristic also makes it a popular species for bonsai.



Stream-Smart Road Crossing Workshop

This workshop will cover road-stream crossing projects from site assessment to permitting and installation with an emphasis on maintaining and restoring the habitat and economic values of the stream.

Workshop presenters include professionals from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Maine Forest Service, ProjectShare, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Maine Coastal Program, NOAA and the Army Corp of Engineers. Participants in this workshop will receive recertification credit for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Voluntary Contractor Certification Program.

Who should attend: any professional responsible for road-stream crossings including, contractors, road commissioners, public works departments, conservation commissions, engineers, planners, land trusts, watershed groups, and private landowners.

If you have any questions please contact Becca Wilson at bwilson@maineaudubon.org or (207) 781-2330 ext. 222.

If you are a participant in the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Voluntary Contractor Certification Program you will receive recertification credit.

Register Now!

Select the date & location that works for you:

[Gilsland Farm Audubon Center, Falmouth – January 26 2012](#)

[Augusta Armory, Augusta ME – February 16, 2012](#)

[Brewer Armory, Brewer ME – February 28, 2012](#)

[Caribou Armory, Caribou ME – March 23, 2012](#)

"I like trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do."

- Willa Cather (1873-1947), *O Pioneers* 1913

Community Wrap-up

News from good people doing good things



Green Downtowns 2012

The Maine Development Foundation's Maine Downtown Center, Project Canopy and GrowSmart Maine are pleased to announce the Green Downtowns Grants. \$25,000 in funds made possible by the Environmental Funders Network will match an additional \$25,000 set aside by Project Canopy to allow the plans and designs created by the Green Downtown project to be implemented and managed. Urban trees provide enormous benefits and are essential to any sustainable community. This opportunity is available to all Main Street Maine and Maine Downtown Network Communities and will utilize Project Canopy criteria and technical guidelines. For information, contact Ryan Neale, Program Director, MDF's Maine Downtown Center, at rneale@mdf.org or 207.626.3119



*"Of winter's lifeless world each tree
Now seems a perfect part;
Yet each one holds summer's secret
Deep down within its heart."
- Charles G. Stater*



*"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson*



To read the latest Forests for Maine's Future Newsletter

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs048/1101695341803/>

*"I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall,
I'll never see a tree at all."
- Ogden Nash, Song of the Open Road, 1933*

Calendar

January

10-12 [MTWEA](#) 99th Annual Conference, Sturbridge, MA

10-12 Maine Agricultural Trades Show, Augusta Civic Center

11 SWOAM Annual Meeting, Augusta Civic Center

February

1-3 [New England Grows](#), Boston

8 Managing Your Timber Harvest - Jefferson Please register by contacting DLWA at [207-549-3836](tel:207-549-3836) or julia@dlwa.org.

10-11 Ithaca's 4th Annual Designing with Native Plants Symposium, Ithaca, NY. www.plantsmen.com

18 Thinning on your woodlot; the terms, the equipment, the reality - Phillips Any questions call Patty Cormier at 592-2238, or patty.cormier@maine.gov.

21-24 ASCA Consulting Academy, Philadelphia, PA <http://www.asca-consultants.org/edprograms/consultingacademy.cfm>

March

3 Maine Arborist Association Annual Conference

9-12 Portland Flower show, Portland, ME

13 UMASS Tree conference, Amherst, MA

16 Green Design, Good Design: Historic Preservation and Smart Energy Solutions, Bath, Location TBD mdf.org

Contact us by the 15th of each month to get your community's event on the calendar